

In the Specification:

Listed below is a marked-up copy of amended paragraphs of the Specification indicating the amended paragraphs of the Specification.

On page 31, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 18 as follows:

In some embodiments, coupling portions may be formed from shape memory metals. Shape memory alloys have a unique property of shape retention at different states. The material exists at two forms i.e. Austenite and Martensite. For example a wireform may be formed into a particular shape in an Austenite state and deformed i.e. stretched to make it straight, this deformation process will convert the wireform into its Martensite state. However, when the wire is heated above a transformation temperature it goes back to its Austenite state, and recovers its original shape. A reversible solid-state phase transformation from austenite to martensite occurs, for example, on cooling (or by deformation) and the reverse transformation from martensite to austenite occurs, for example, on heating (or upon release of deformation). The transformation temperature is dependent on the material composition. Materials can be engineered to have transformation temperatures just a few degrees above body temperature (e.g., 45 °C). There are many companies, which specialize in nitinol fabrication like Memry Corporation (~~www.memry.com~~), Nitinol Devices and Components (~~www.Nitinol.com~~).

On page 44, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 15 as follows:

In some embodiments, reinforcing elements described herein may be used in combination with other methods. Other methods may include, for example, removing autologous muscle cells, stem cells, etc., and culturing the cells to generate implantation cells necessary for myocardial repair. Cultured cells may be implanted via injection or the like into the myocardium. In the myocardium, cultured cells may have an opportunity to generate new heart muscle. One of the factors that renders ischemic heart disease so devastating is the inability of the cardiac muscle cells to divide and repopulate areas of ischemic heart damage. As a result, cardiac cell loss as a result of injury or disease is

irreversible. Implanted cells may overcome the inability of cardiac muscle cells to divide by thriving in an oxygen deprived infarct area. Methods for cell implantation, as well as associated apparatus, are available commercially from such companies as Bioheart Inc. in Weston, Florida (www.bioheartinc.com).